

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/807,297

Applicant(s)

HATTORI, HIROSHI

Examiner

Joni Hsu

Art Unit

2628

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers received June 19, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see page 2, filed June 19, 2007, with respect to Claims 1-22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of Claims 1-7 and 20-22 and the objections to Claims 8-19 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-22 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

3. The prior art taken singly or in combination do not teach or suggest the combination of all the limitations recited in Claims 1 and 20. Claims 2-19, 21, and 22 depend from these claims, and therefore also contain allowable subject matter.
4. The closest prior art (Takahashi US006359695B1) teaches an image processing device for creating, based on a drawing command (*instructions about the second image data*, Col. 3, lines 10-21), drawing data to be used for forming an image while scanning in a main scanning direction (Col. 8, lines 38-40), the image processing device comprising storage means prestored with a predetermined first reference value (*designation means may designate the size of the second image data*, Col. 3, lines 6-10; Col. 4, lines 20-28; Col. 12, lines 10-18); command receiving means for receiving drawing commands in succession (*receives the instruction about*

the second image data, Col. 3, lines 10-21); graphic determination means for determining whether or not a graphic pattern to be drawn by each drawing command has a predetermined shape (*logotype*, Col. 12, lines 7-9); graphic width determination means for determining, when the graphic determination means determines that the graphic pattern has the predetermined shape, whether or not a width of the graphic pattern in a main scanning direction is less than or equal to the first reference value (*size designation may be performed in such a manner that 512 pixels or less can be designated in the direction X*, Col. 12, lines 10-18; *determine whether or not the address exceeds the size of the basic image*, Col. 23, lines 45-60); and determining whether or not the graphic patterns indicated by the plurality of drawing commands constitute a pattern (*if one basic image 300A and a succeeding basic image 300b are deviated from each other in terms of the pattern continuity*, Col. 12, lines 51-65), in which the corresponding graphic patterns are arranged in the main scanning direction (*basic image 300 is printed out in such a manner that it is periodically repeated in the direction X*, Col. 22, lines 1-6); command conversion means for converting, when the graphic pattern determination means determines that the plurality of graphic patterns indicated by the plurality of drawing commands constitute the array pattern, the plurality of drawing commands into one or more secondary drawing command to draw one or more secondary graphic pattern, the one or more secondary graphic pattern being defined by combining the plurality of graphic patterns together in the main scanning direction; and drawing data generation means for generating drawing data to be used for forming the one or more secondary graphic pattern while scanning in the main scanning direction (*if one basic image 300A and a succeeding basic image 300b are deviated from each other in terms of the pattern continuity, then a movement for each block is performed so that the pattern continuity is kept as*

shown in FIG. 47B, Col. 12, lines 56-65; basic image 300 is printed out in such a manner that the basic image 300 is rotated, Col. 22, lines 14-24). However, Takahashi does not teach that the graphic pattern determination means holds the drawing command when the graphic width determination means determines that the width of the corresponding graphic pattern is less than or equal to the first reference value.

5. Another prior art (Naoi US006687401B2) teaches that a process performing rule storage unit 1e store the procedure indicating the next process to be performed based on the result of the recognizing process entered in the intermediate process result table (Col. 11, lines 50-53). The recognizing process determines a graphic pattern (Col. 11, lines 8-21), and therefore is a graphic pattern determination means. The processes include definitions of how characters are drawn (*process condition storage unit 42 store definitions such as the layout structure of the form and read character information, for example, the position type and size of a character box, type of characters, number of characters, Col. 16, lines 40-44).* However, Naoi teaches that the graphic pattern is determined after the graphic pattern has already been drawn (Col. 1, lines 18-24), and therefore does not teach determining the graphic pattern in order to determine the drawing commands that are to be executed afterwards.

6. Another prior art (Miwa US005923790A) teaches determining whether or not the graphic patterns indicated by the plurality of drawing command constitute an array pattern, in which the corresponding graphic patterns are arranged consecutively in the main scanning direction (*detects the direction of the character array in the document (to be read out), whether the*

Art Unit: 2628

vertical direction (sub scan direction) of the document lies in each line or the lines are successively arrayed in the horizontal direction (main scan direction), Col. 4, lines 8-18).

However, Miwa does not teach the graphic width determination means.

7. Another prior art (Otani US006930808B2) teaches converting image data of the main scan direction to that of the sub-scan direction (Col. 5, lines 29-36). A different operation is used to form the image data in a different direction (*switches operation for writing the plurality of colors of image data in blocks that belong to corresponding rows, and operation for writing the plurality of colors of image data in the blocks that belong to corresponding columns*, Col. 1, lines 57-64). However, Otani does not explicitly teach converting to a secondary drawing command.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art of Record

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. Takahashi (US006359695B1) teaches an image output apparatus having an image repeating function for repeatedly recording the same image (Col. 1, lines 15-17).

2. Naoi (US006687401B2) teaches an apparatus for recognizing a pattern, and realizes to recognize graphics correctly depending on various states of input images when used with a graphics recognizing apparatus (Col. 1, lines 18-24).
3. Miwa (US005923790A) teaches an improvement of a technique for discriminating the top and the bottom of an image read out from an original document in a copying machine, a facsimile, and the like (Col. 1, lines 8-13).
4. Otani (US006930808B2) teaches a memory controller that switches operation for writing the plurality of colors of image data in the blocks that belong to corresponding rows, and operation for writing the plurality of colors of image data in the blocks that belong to corresponding columns in units of lines (Col. 1, lines 57-64).

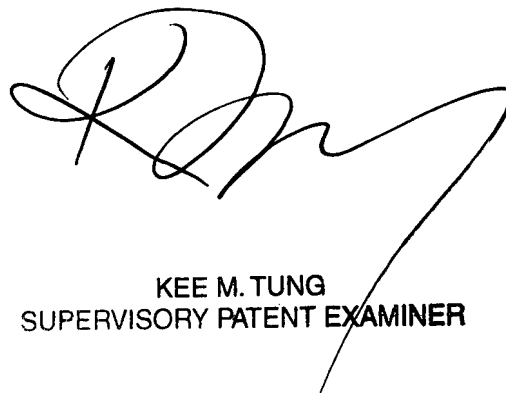
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joni Hsu whose telephone number is 571-272-7785. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ulka Chauhan can be reached on 571-272-7782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JH



KEE M. TUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER